



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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December 11, 2007

TO: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – LITTLE
PEOPLE’S WORLD, INCORPORATED - HARRIS AVENUE, KALSMAN
AVENUE, CHERRY VALLEY AND BANNING GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Harris Avenue, Kalsman Avenue, Cherry Valley and Banning Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by Little People’s World, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Harris Avenue Group Home is a ten-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 6-12 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Harris Avenue Group Home was providing services for seven DCFS children and two privately placed children.

Kalsman Avenue Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 6-12 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Kalsman Avenue Group Home was providing services for six DCFS children.

Cherry Valley Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 6-12 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Cherry Valley Group Home was providing services for one DCFS child and four Riverside County children.

“To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service”

Banning Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 6-12 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Banning Group Home was providing services for four Riverside County children and was not providing services for any Los Angeles County children.

Harris Avenue and Kalsman Avenue Group Homes are located in the Second District.

Cherry Valley and Banning Group Homes are located in Riverside County.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Additionally, since Banning Group Home is not providing services for any Los Angeles County children at this time, the monitoring review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes only a facility inspection.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address a few deficient areas.

Harris Avenue Group Home needs to assess all children for needed services within thirty days of placement.

Kalsman Avenue Group Home needs to clean the front porch, repair the brick facing on the house and properly maintain the front lawn. Additionally, the Group Home needs to clean the kitchen cabinets, replace the grout around the stovetop and repair the floor tiles in the laundry room. The Group Home also needs to properly store all staple foods.

Cherry Valley Group Home is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Banning Group Home does not have any facility and environment or safety deficiencies noted. A corrective action plan for Cherry Valley and Banning Group Homes is not necessary at this time.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Don Chadwick at (626) 293-1102.

JTM:DC:CC:jdh

Attachments

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Susan Kerr, Chief Deputy Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
C.S.J. Kidogo, Executive Director, Little People's World, Incorporated
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Little People's World, Incorporated
Harris Avenue Group Home
Compton, California 90221
License Number: 191670240
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Harris Avenue Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Three

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Not all of the children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

- 1. Little People's World management assess all children for needed services within thirty days of placement.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Three

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Three

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication. Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Three

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail and have private visitors. Children attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Three

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

**Little People's World, Incorporated
Kalsman Avenue Group Home
Compton, California 90220
License Number: 191600851
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Kalsman Avenue Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is adequately maintained. However, the front porch is dirty and the brick facing on the house is damaged. The front lawn has potholes and is not appropriately maintained. The back yard is neat and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is adequately maintained. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The common quarters are neat. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the kitchen cabinets are dirty, the grout around the stovetop is stained, and some of the floor tiles in the laundry room are broken.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods. However, some staple food items are not properly stored in airtight containers.

Recommendations

1. Little People's World management:

- a. Clean the front porch.
- b. Repair the brick facing on the house.
- c. Repair and maintain the front lawn appropriately.

- d. Clean the kitchen cabinets.**
- e. Replace the grout around the stovetop.**
- f. Replace the broken floor tiles in the laundry room.**
- g. Properly store all food items.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication. Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail and have private visitors. Children attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

**Little People's World, Incorporated
Cherry Valley Group Home
Cherry Valley, California 92223
License Number: 330910409
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Cherry Valley Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interview

Sample size: One

Comments:

The child meets the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. The child was assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that the child is receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interview

Sample size: One

Comments:

The child is attending school. The child is provided with educational support and resources to meet his educational needs and is progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of the child's daily living, self-help and survival skills.

The child is provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interview

Sample size: One

Comments:

The Group Home provides the child with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. The child is provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. The

child also participates in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which he has an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication. Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Child Interview

Sample size: One

Comments:

The child is informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. The child reports that he feels safe in the Group Home and is provided with appropriate staff supervision. The child expresses satisfaction with the quality of his interactions with staff and reports that the staff treats him with respect and dignity.

The child reports that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. The child is allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail and have private visitors. The child attends religious services of his choice.

The child reports that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The child reports satisfaction with meals and snacks.

The child receives voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interview

Sample size: One

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to the child. The child is provided with opportunities to select his own clothes. Clothing provided to the child is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides the child with the required minimum weekly allowance. The child spends his allowance as he chooses.

The Group Home provides the child with adequate personal care items. The child is also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining a photo album/life book.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

**Little People's World, Incorporated
Banning Group Home
Banning, California 92222
License Number: 336402541
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Banning Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.



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Little Peoples' World Inc.

November 27, 2007

Department of Auditor-Controller
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple St., Room 515-A
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: Candace Rhue, Group Home Audit Supervisor

Program Services

Recommendations

1. Little Peoples' World Group Home Management:
 - a. Assess all children for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Administrator and Facility Manager will review the Needs and Services Plan form monthly to ensure correct date of completion has been documented on the form by the Facility Social Worker.

The Quality Improvement Controller will monitor monthly to assure compliance with the corrective plan.

Facility and Environment

Recommendations

1. Little Peoples' World Group Home Management:
 - a. Clean the front porch
 - b. Repair the brick facing of the house
 - c. Maintain the front lawn appropriately
 - d. Clean the kitchen cabinets
 - e. Replace the grout around the stovetop

- f. Replace the broken floor tiles in the laundry room

October 30, 2007 the following corrections were made:

1. The front porch was power hosed
2. The brick trimming around the flower bed was repaired
3. The lawn was made even with fill dirt
4. The kitchen cabinets were cleansed
5. Grout was replaced around the stovetop
6. The broken floor tiles in laundry room was replaced

The Administrator and Facility Manager will conduct bi-weekly inspection of the site and complete the Group Home Self-Assessment Form to ensure routine maintenance; repair and upkeep are completed in a timely manner.

The Quality Improvement Controller will conduct monthly inspections of the site to assure compliance with the corrective plan.

Respectfully,



Hitaji Kidogo, Assistant Director of Services